

ABSTRACT

A method for providing an authentication of a user of a computer system in a network is disclosed. The method comprises capturing biometric data of a user; encrypting and signing the biometric data with a private key and sending the encrypted and signed data to a central server in the network. The method further comprises accepting and verifying credentials associated with the signed and encrypted data from the server utilizing the public key from the server. The method further comprises installing the credentials into the computer if the credentials are verified. In a method and system in accordance with the present invention, a user can walk up to any client within an enterprise and have their locally captured biometric input authenticated at a central server. The user can then have their individual credentials securely imported to the local client for subsequent use during that time period, without needing any additional identification or memory token such as a smartcard.